

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ITC-01
/088 W

-----251928Z 107735 /40

R 251823Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6845
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USELM LIVE OAK
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
IV TRANS BRIG, OBERURSEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05345

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE UR GW US UK FR
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED
MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 377 DTG 041444Z FEB 77;
(B) USBER 335 DTG 011647Z FEB 77;
(C) BONN 1538 DTG 261813Z JAN 77 NOTAL;
(D) BONN 1944 DTG 020830Z FEB 77 NOTAL;
(E) BONN 935 DTG 172042Z JAN 77 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN CONSIDERING REICHSBAHN DEMAND FOR
TARIFF INCREASE FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS, BONN GROUP
BELIEVES THAT WHILE HOLDING THE LINE AT THE PRESENT
TIME, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH
PREPARATION OF WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER A REASONABLE TARIFF
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SCHEDULE, SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRE AN ADJUSTMENT
IN THE PRESENT TARIFFS. THE FRG WILL REQUEST THE
BUNDESBahn TO WORK WITH USAREUR AND BRITISH AND FRENCH
LIAISON OFFICERS IN PREPARING SUCH A SCHEDULE.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 23 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE)

RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE GDR ATTEMPT TO INCREASE REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN. HENZE REPORTED THAT THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY HAD ASKED THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD RESPONDED TO THE ALLIED REJECTION OF THE GDR DEMAND. THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY HAD POINTED OUT THAT FREIGHT LETTERS WERE PILING UP IN THE BUNDESBAHN OFFICE AND THAT, WHILE THE BUNDESBAHN INTENDED TO BALANCE ACCOUNTS ON THE EXISTING BASIS, IT DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE EFFECT WOULD BE.

2. ALLIED REPS REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT YET ANSWERED.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WAS REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO WAIT FOR THE SOVIETS TO REPLY. IN SOME WAYS, THE GDR HAS A GOOD CASE. BOISSIEU SAID HE FAVORED GOING TO THE SOVIETS WITH A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO PAY AT WHAT WE CONSIDERED TO BE A REASONABLE RATE.

4. UK REP (HITCH) ALSO THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIES TO RETURN TO THE SOVIETS AT SOME POINT. HE THOUGHT WE WOULD PROBABLY IN THE END TRY TO FIND SOME WAY FOR THE BUNDESBAHN AND THE REICHSBAHN TO WORK OUT THE PROBLEM BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

5. US REP STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCEPTING NO CHANGES WITHOUT SOME FORM OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDER TO PRESERVE QUADRIpartite COVER. HE ASKED, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE FRG MIGHT IN THE MEANTIME BE DRAWING UP FIGURES FOR WHAT IT WOULD CONSIDER TO BE A REASONABLE TARIFF STRUCTURE. HENZE RECALLED THAT THE BUNDESBAHN HAD IN EFFECT DONE SO ALREADY, IN ITS ANALYSIS OF THE NEW TARIFFS WHICH THE REICHSBAHN HAD ANNOUNCED (PARA 8, REF E).

6. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE BONN GROUP AGREED WE SHOULD PROCEED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- THE EARLIER DECISION THAT THE BUNDESBAHN SHOULD BALANCE ITS ACCOUNTS WITH THE REICHSBAHN ON THE BASIS OF THE OLD RATES WAS RECONFIRMED.

-- IF, AT THAT TIME, THE REICHSBAHN RAISES THE SUBJECT OF THE FARE INCREASE, THE BUNDESBAHN SHOULD REFER THEM TO THE ALLIED LETTERS (REF A) TO THE REICHSBAHN AND NOTE THAT THE FOUR POWERS ALONE ARE COMPETENT FOR

SUCH MATTERS BUT THAT THE THREE POWERS HAD
INDICATED TO THE SOVIETS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05345

THE ISSUE IF THE SOVIETS WISHED TO DO SO.

-- MEANWHILE, THE FRG-ALLIED COMMITTEE WHICH
COORDINATES ON RAIL MATTERS (THE FRG REP UNDERSTOOD
THAT SUCH A COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF OFFICIALS OF THE
BUNDESBAHN AND LIAISON OFFICERS FROM MILITARY FORCES
OF THE THREE ALLIES) SHOULD BEGIN WORK ON WHAT MIGHT
BE CONSIDERED A REASONABLE TARIFF SCHEDULE, SO THAT WE
WOULD BE PREPARED AT SOME FUTURE POINT TO DISCUSS THE
MATTER IN CONCRETE TERMS.

7. COMMENT: WE SHARE THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE BONN
GROUP THAT EVENTUALLY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO AGREE TO
SOME RATE ADJUSTMENT AND POSSIBLY ALSO TO CHANGE THE
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PRESENT SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE REICHSBAHN
RECEIVES NO COMPENSATION AT ALL FOR PULLING PASSENGER
TRAINS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD
WAIT EITHER FOR THE SOVIETS TO RETURN TO THE MATTER OR
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT
NECESSITATE ANOTHER ALLIED MOVE. IT REMAINS ESSENTIAL,
IN OUR VIEW, THAT WHATEVER CHANGES ARE MADE CAN BE
PORTRAYED AS FALLING UNDER QUADRIPARTITE AUSPICES.
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